

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-19, 21, 23-36, 38 and 40-51 are pending, in which claims 3, 5, 20, 22, 37 and 39 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 25, 30, 32, 35, 36, 38, 42, 47 and 49 are currently amended. Care was exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

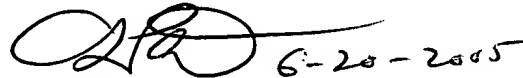
The Office Action mailed May 3, 2005 rejected claims 1, 6, 16, 18, 19, 23, 33, 35, 40 and 50 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Prieto, Jr. et al.* (US 6,381,228) in view of *Lam* (US 6,198,724), claims 2, 19 and 36 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Prieto, Jr. et al.* in view of *Lam* and in further view of *Natarajan* (US 5,699,355), claims 3, 4, 20, 21, 37 and 38 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Prieto, Jr. et al.* in view of *Lam* and in further view of *Bahls* (US 5,893,924), claims 7, 10-12, 14, 24, 27-29, 31, 41, 44-46 and 48 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Prieto, Jr. et al.* in view of *Lam* and in further view of *Montpetit* (US 6,366,761), claims 8, 9, 25, 26, 50 and 51 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Prieto, Jr. et al.* in view of *Lam* and in further view of *Murakami* (US 6,212,164), and claims 17, 34 and 51 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Prieto, Jr. et al.* in view of *Lam* and in further view of *Hatano* (US 5,959,991).

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 5, 13, 15, 22, 30, 32, 39, 47 and 49 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

To advance prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 18 and 35 to include allowable features of corresponding dependent claims 3, 5, 20, 22, 37 and 39. Also, claims 13, 15, 30, 32, 47 and 49 have been recast as independent claims. Consequently, the obviousness rejections are rendered moot.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (301) 428-7172 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. (Original) All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Plastrik', followed by the date '6-20-2005'.

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